*Freight on the produce of the cocoanut tree.*

134. *MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government have addressed the South Indian Railway authorities for reducing the freight on the produce of the cocoanut trees?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state when the Government addressed the South Indian Railway authorities on this point?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): On the 4th September 1934.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): That is, after the receipt of this interpellation?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN. (*Secretary to Government*): Even earlier than that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether anything has been achieved as a result of the communication with the South Indian Railway?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Railway company has stated that they are prepared to do everything in their power to stimulate the cocoanut trade by reducing the freight thereof.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Have they given any definite reply about the concession that they are prepared to make in the freight of the cocoanut produce?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): They stated that the matter will be considered if concrete proposals are placed before the company.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Am I to understand that the communication said to have been addressed to the South Indian Railway Company did not contain any concrete proposal?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No. The company was asked if they would give concessional rates of freight on the cocoanut produce.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know from the member whether the South Indian Railway Company agreed that they would allow concessional rates in the freight of the cocoanut produce?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): They said that they are prepared to give concessions.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know what sort of concession they are prepared to give, *i. e.*, the reduction on freight they are prepared to make?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): They said that if concrete proposals are made they would consider the matter.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Did Government place any proposal before the South Indian Railway Company regarding the reduction of freight on cocoanut products?



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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government did not place any proposal, because no concrete proposals were made to the Government by the merchants.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Now, has the Government any intention to get the freights reduced?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): If concrete proposals are made to Government by the merchants, they would address the Railway Company and request them to consider about the reduction of freight in the light of the recommendations made by the merchants.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whom does the Government expect to present such concrete proposals?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The merchant population and particularly the Chambers of Commerce, Alleppey and Travancore.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Are we to understand that Government have no concrete suggestions to offer to the Railway Company?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No, they have not got concrete suggestions.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): May I know from the member whether Government moves only on the representations of private individuals?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): In matters of this nature they do only like that.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Unless representations are received from the merchant community, it was said, no action will be taken by Government in matters of this nature. Then why did the Government address the South Indian Railway asking for concession in freight?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Chamber of Commerce suggested that if the Railway Company is addressed, they may reduce the rates.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): When the Government moved the S. I. R. Company, had they any concrete proposals in their mind?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): If the S. I. R. Company gave a positive reply what would the Government propose to do with it?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): They would communicate the same to the Chamber of Commerce.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): If a merchant wants to send a lot of goods to Calcutta or any other distant place he must apply to the company for reduction of rates, or will the Government reduce the freight on the goods?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): If the merchant finds that the rates charged by the Railway Company, is very high and that it may be reduced, he must first address the Railway Company. In such cases it is also possible that the company may, on their own account, reduce the rates.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Will the Government ask the company to make reduction on their own account?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not consider it necessary.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): What is the opinion of the company, whether they are prepared to make any reduction?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): May I know whether the Chamber of Commerce was informed of the reply received by the Government from the South Indian Railway?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

*Railway freight on cocoanuts.*

135. *MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken for reducing railway freights on cocoanuts and cocoanut products?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government addressed the authorities of the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. Railways through the Trade Agent. But these Railway Companies did not consider it possible at present to make any change in the present rates. Negotiations with the S. I. R. Company with a view to the reduction of the rates are being continued.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know why Government thought it necessary to seek the mediation of the Trade Agent when they wanted to correspond with the Railway Companies of North India and why did they themselves correspond directly as with the South Indian Railway?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Trade Agent was at the time in Bombay and he has got more convenience to make the necessary enquiries.

PRESIDENT: You mean the headquarters of these Railway Companies; where are they?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): At Bombay.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Had the Government instructed the Trade Agent in finding out suitable markets for the Travancore products?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know the names of markets found out on behalf of Travancore Government for the Travancore products?

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